

Personal
Secret - Security Information

American Embassy
Paris
June 22, 1953

Dear Livy:

The Germans are here in force today in connection with the European Political Community treaty.

Blankenhorn came to see me this morning. He had accompanied Chancellor Adenauer and Hallstein on their plane trip from Bonn this morning. He said that the Chancellor wanted to tell me, since both he and Hallstein at various times had discussed the question with me, that he had finally decided from a German domestic political standpoint a postponement of a four-power conference (if such were to take place) until after the German elections would be most advisable. He will talk further on this subject to Jim Conant upon his return to Germany supplementing his previous talks with Conant. I assume that you have already heard of this from Conant or will have news from him shortly.

There have been two schools of thought amongst the Chancellor's followers on this point but I gather that this expression of his own conviction is now definitive.

This does not alter his conviction that if a four-power conference is held at all between chiefs of state it should be terminated between the time of the German elections — provided Adenauer wins — and October when most of the European parliaments will be again considering EDC.

I do not know what will transpire in regard to forming a government in France but in a sense I am glad the situation is as bad as it is because it may at last precipitate them sometime this year into a constitutional reform entirely apart from the personalities and characters of the leading politicians here. The root trouble in France is the nature of the constitution, which puts a premium on parliamentary irresponsibility.

I am still optimistic about achieving EDC ratification this year provided Adenauer is reelected.

With kind personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,

The Honorable
Livingston Merchant,
Assistant Secretary of State
for European Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

DB:GES

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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